

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Rotermundt, Sophie (Davies)**

**Sophie Rotermundt Collection, 1915-1933**

**PCA 463**

1 Photograph album  
180 b&w photographs  
15 photographs missing from album  
85 loose b&w photographs

Processed by: James Simard, July 2006  
Revised by: Anastasia Tarmann, Mar. 2013  
Revised by: Connie Hamann, Oct. 2014  
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, Oct. 2014

**ACQUISITION:** A. Loren Kraetz donated the photograph album in 2006, accession #2006-015. Photographs 196-280, added February 28, 2013, accession #2013-005.

**ACCESS:** The collection is available for viewing.

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

**PROCESSING:** The album is in fragile condition. Album has been scanned. Some album pages are loose, with a few photographs missing. Loose photos sleeved in Mylar. Photographs 196-280 have been placed in Mylar and placed in an acid free folder.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sophie was born in 1890 at Arlington, Washington, the only child of German parents. She was fluent in both English and German. She was trained at Bellingham Normal School, and worked as a teacher in Fort Yukon, Alaska, between 1925 and 1927. She returned to Fort Yukon to teach again in 1930 or 1931. Sophie met George Davies, a fur trapper, in 1931 at Fort Yukon, and they were married in 1932. The couple spent the remainder of their lives on a small farm in Arlington. The collection includes photos from George Davies' years in Alaska before meeting Sophie, beginning from 1915.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection contains one photograph album and loose photographs from about 1912-1933. The images depict scenes of daily life in Interior Alaska, particularly Fort Yukon. Several images chronicle the journey to Fort Yukon, including scenes of Juneau and Seward.

## INVENTORY

### Album: #1-195a

1. Midnight sun on Yukon
2. Miss Fairbanks at Fort Yukon
3. Bridge at Nenana; Model of souvenir given President Harding
4. A pretty spot near Juneau
5. Hudson Bay Cemetery
6. "Aleutian" passengers near Juneau
7. Alaska Crocuses
8. Six feet across, Moose Horn spread 72"
9. Tanana River
10. Sophie, Spencer Glacier north of Seward
11. Sophie, Just arrived at Fort Yukon
12. Episcopal church near Tanana
13. Barney and I
14. Happy folks traveling down the Tanana
15. Two friends and Barney
16. The Girls' Team
17. A winter scene
18. Going home from church
19. Ice on the Porcupine
20. A runaway ice cake; Haly's Roadhouse
21. At the roadhouse

22. Mail for "Outside"; Post Office
23. A good place to stop; Fort Yukon Hotel
- 24-25. At Old Crow Yukon Territory  
Caribou brought across Old Crow River
- 26-27. Getting ready for winter
28. Group of Eskimos (Husky dogs)
29. Esaias Simon Travels
30. Huskies leaving Ft. Yukon
31. On the banks of the Yukon
32. My nine friends
33. Eskimo home
34. Game warden's sled
35. Punk & Bum Camp
36. A musher
37. At Fairbanks [Motorcycle and rider, pulling sled.]
38. Road Commission [unreadable] cabin
39. Nine dogs at work
40. Yes, were fine
41. On Chandler Trail
42. Ready to go? [Several people standing by an airplane]
43. Big Steve travels
44. See our cat?
45. Blackie & Brownie [Sophie with two dogs]
46. Off for a picnic
47. Sophie [standing on the back of a dog sled]
48. Miss. Dalaiel
49. A fine team [sled dogs]
50. We enjoyed the break-up at Fort Yukon
51. Some of my pupils
52. At the hospital, Sophie center
53. Picnic in winter
54. Valdemir, Jim-Jim, Alfred
55. Working in summer
56. Horton's Store, Ft. Y.
57. Nine dogs on a narrow trail
58. Good company
59. A camp-robber at large
60. On Yukon River
61. Cut bank on Yukon
62. Jonathan's team in front of the hospital

63. Native teams and toboggans
64. Winter sun and sun-dog
65. Easter Sunday on the river
66. Church is over
67. Good for many miles
68. Cooney looks suspicious
69. We've had a fine trip
70. Me and my pals
71. Blackie and our cat
- 72, 73. Arranging a \$15,000 catch
74. Successful trappers Mason Bros. & Mrs. Mason (photograph missing)
75. 173 skins (photograph missing)
76. Mission of Our Savior, Tanana, Alaska
77. 112 skins (photograph missing)
78. Christmas greeting and best wishes for the New Year from Nome. F. J. O'Hara M. D. ©Loman Bros, Nome, #1004
79. Hospital, Ft. Yukon
80. Governor Parks and ...
81. First Steamboat, June 6, 1928
- 82-86. Fort Yukon Panorama, (1-5); Horton & Moore Dealers In Merchandise & Raw Furs; H.E. Carter General Merchandise; Fort Yukon Hotel
87. Mistake in numbering – no photograph
88. Bishop Row & friends
89. Dreaming of Minneapolis
90. "Snapping" the breakup
91. Snubbing logs, high water
92. What are they?
93. On the banks of the Yukon
94. We were pals, Sophie
95. Lu Rene
96. On a Saturday hike
97. Ready to go home?, Sophie
98. Our mail carrier on way to Circle
99. John our water carrier
100. [clipping] Tony Nordale, old-time Alaskan hotel man – the Oscar of Fairbanks
101. Young racers [puppies]
102. cute? [puppies]
- 103, 104. Wrapped in Furs?[photographs missing]
- 105, 106. One Winter's Work [photographs missing]
107. Happy school kiddies [native children at school house]

108. Watching the freeze-up on Yukon in October
109. Taking it easy; Horton & Moore Outfitters Trappers Supplies; American Railroad Express
110. Landed on the river, Sophie [airplane and people on ice]
- 111-1. Two modes of travel [airplane and dog sled]
- 111-2. When the roads are soft
112. At 1A.M. I snapped the sun, May 25
113. Governor Geo. A. Park [Parks] at Ft. Yukon
114. Government school and teacher's cottage
115. Right after lunch
116. The river is bankfull May 12 (1925)
117. On a trip in April, Sophie
118. A busy staff (log building with sign: Hudson Stuck Memorial Hospital)
119. Near Fairbanks
120. Trying to look pleasant?
121. One fine Sunday
122. Who wants this melon?, Sophie
- 123, 124. Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Wilkerson (Grace & Al)
125. Addie tries on a baby Strap
126. What's the news?
127. Spring on the Yukon, Sophie
128. Dressed for comfort at Fort Yukon
- 129, 130. Some of my pupils picked autumn leaves, Sept. 5, 1928
131. Drying fish
132. Central house
133. F. B. McDonald at Fairbanks
134. Pansies at the college, Sophie
135. Chair made of caribou, moose, and goat horns
136. "Nice baby, have some candy?" [Man feeding bear cub]
137. Reindeer-caribou, Alaska College
138. Dr. Burke, Dr. O'Hara, and children at the mission
139. The Needle Club [sewing group]
140. My hospital window
141. Not a totem pole, just a curiously carved tree
142. Seward, Aaa
143. Aboard "Northwestern", Sophie
144. When navigation stops on the Yukon
145. Newly weds
146. Dandy skating until the snow flies
147. Watching the break-up at Tanana

148. A summer's ice supply?
149. The mighty Yukon breaks
150. A little chunk came over [photograph missing]
151. No boatribe yet a while?
152. Chester at work
153. Soon it hit the houses [photograph missing]
- 154, 155. Nearly wrecked Main Street, Sophie [flooded street]; Horton & Moore Dealers  
In Merchandise and Raw Furs
- 156, 157. Finding Gold under the Ice? [photographs missing]
158. At 2 A.M. in May as the Yukon began to rise [photograph missing]
159. At 2 A.M. in May as the Yukon began to rise [unidentified woman on frozen  
river]
160. Getting the water supply
161. Getting the water supply [photograph missing]
162. [sign] A golden spike was driven at this point by President Harding on  
completion of the Alaska Railroad, July 15, 1923
163. [Yukon steamer]
164. Sophie [at bridge]
165. [greeting card] Greetings from Alaska, 1931 – 1932, Sophia [Sophie]  
Rotermundt
166. [group of children standing on cord-wood]
167. [two unidentified men]
168. [unidentified man and woman in a garden, log building in background]
169. [woman and two children on porch of a log building]
170. [unidentified man with three boys]
171. [no caption; photograph missing]
172. [greeting card with photograph] Greetings from Mr and Mrs William Butler,  
Fort Yukon, Alaska. [verso]"With very best Christmas wishes from us both.  
The door is open as you see, for you to drop in at will either now or when you  
return to Alaska for the third time!" Marjory Butler with love. Christmas 1931.  
Fort Yukon, Alaska.
173. [unidentified woman in winter clothing and snow shoes]
174. [group of people] Sophie center
175. [unidentified woman on a sunny day]
176. [unidentified woman and a dog]
177. [no caption; photograph missing]
178. [a man with four boys]
179. [float plane landing or taking off, ramp in foreground]
180. [crashed airplane]
181. [three men with an airplane]

- 182. [sled dogs]
- 183. [man in winter scene]
- 183a. [winter scene, person in middle, structure in back ground]
- 184. [wooden railroad structure destroyed by ice]
- 185-187. Sophie Rotermund [Rotermundt] married George Davies in 1932.
- 185. George's winter home.
- 186. George Davies from England.
- 187. Sophie
- 188. [portrait of unidentified woman]
- 189. [portrait of unidentified man and woman]
- 190. [unidentified man smoking a pipe]
- 191. George Davies
- 192, 193. [a group of unidentified women picnicking]
- 194. George Davies [with group of people]
- 195. [portrait of unidentified man]
- 195a. [shoulder and head portrait of two women wearing hats, trees in background]

Folder: #196-280

- 196. \* -1- \* 1928 catch of J. L. Thomas: Lynx 56, Mink 32, Ermine 5, Fox red 1, Muskrat 25
- 197. \* -2- \* 1928 catch of John Roberts: Wolves 22, Lynx 2, Fox red 3, Wolverine 2, Mink 10, Ermine 1
- 198. Valued at \$15,000 [furs on roof & hanging from eave of log cabin, 1 man standing on roof, 2 men and woman standing on ground]
- 199. Part of a \$15,000 fur catch 1927. Sophie Davis Rotermundt [closer shot of furs from #198 with same woman standing behind hanging bundles]
- 200. These three trapped many miles northeast of Ft Yukon [closer view similar to #198, but with different woman, only one man standing on ground & 1 on roof]
- 201. 10 friends on Coal Cr. George, upper right with a big hat [post card: black dog at front of group of people; includes newspaper clipping describing the photo which says in part "...Nels Nelson, now at Kent, Wash.; Mrs. Robert Darlington, now dead; George Davis of Island Service Station, Arlington, Wash.; Robert Darlington, Cathcart, Wash.; Sam Harvey, Spiceland, Indiana; Jack Boyle, former postmaster of Circle, now at Circle; Chas. Boyle, his brother, now dead; Wm. P. Beaton, living at 1016 University St., Seattle; Chas. Armstrong, a negro miner, now dead, and Frank [Slaven], himself. ..."]
- 202. George Davies upper right, back row [group shot of 9 men, 1 woman, with black dog in background]

203. [white paper (part of envelope) with writing:] George Davies in Alaska 1915-1933 – Find P of men & 1 lady. Frank Slaven, Nels Nelson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Darlington, George Davies, Sam Harvey, Jack Boyle – post master of Circle, Charles Boyle, William Beaton, Charles Armstrong – Negro, Valentine Smith
204. Ft. Yukon Series - #4. Radio Station at left, Roadhouse at right. some residences in rear and heavy timber in background. S.R. [in pencil]: Views of Fort Yukon taken by Sophie Rotermundt.
205. Ft. Yukon Series - #5. Good view of “The Leading Hotel.” Right under the mark is our Movie House. In background, the slough on which we skated last fall. Near center, right is house with no snow on roof – green-house belonging to Hotel. Ripe tomatoes and other vegetables there now. S.R.
206. Ft. Yukon Series - #3. Main Street showing Radio poles, Hospital in rear, and Mission in rear to the left. Doctor’s cabin between Hospital & Mission. Left foreground shows roof of the P.O. S.R.
207. #1 of this “Set.” 1 = Northern Commercial Co. Store, 2 = Gabled cottage “Teacherage”, 3 = Low gray bldg., School, 4 = Old native cemetery, partly washed into river. 5 = Street leading down to boat-landing, 6 = Substantial log houses of the natives. In the foreground are some dog houses in the yard of the Post Master, Emil Bergman. S.R.
208. Henry Martell’s team 18 dogs
209. Ben Eilson’s airmail plane on pioneer flight to McGrath from Fairbanks. “Moose Ptarmigan Ben” at junction of Takotna & Kuskokwim Rs. GD
210. Ben Eilson’s Airmail Service. Fairbanks-McGrath at mouth of Takotna River entering Kuskokwim R. GD [same image as #209]
211. Down on Kuskokwim River Alaska GD [post card, plane appears to be partially sunk, with ice around, 3 men in boat]
212. Noel Wien’s plane at McGrath [airplane on bare sand]
213. Bennet’s plane at McGrath [airplane on snow with FAIRBANKS, I. on tail, young woman without coat seated behind sign on tail]
214. GD [farther view of airplane in #213, on snow, no people]
215. Episcopal Church at Fort Yukon, Alaska. Beaded Altar Cloth is moose hide
216. Green house at Fort Yukon 1932
217. George’s House [woman in dark coat wearing knit hat with long tassel, seated on porch with birch columns]
218. My Cabin at McGrath ‘25
219. George Davies at the bottom of the Canyon on Bonanza Creek. I am cooking at a fire behind. Bailey Hutchins Davies [post card]
220. Glacier Creek Sushanna Diggings GD [post card, shows man standing in creek, with what looks like a flume to the side]

221. George Davies After the break-up of Yukon R. May, 1932 [man with gold pan, ankle deep in water & surrounded by large chunks of ice]
222. Note torpedo-like shape of the ice floe pushing up the bank on the way to town from Mission. Summer this year has been very wet & mosquitoes outrageous; worse than anytime since we have been up here. We start to Eagle from Nenana Aug 22. So do write us what you will be doing this coming winter. We put in a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ last winter & trust that we will never have another like it. As ever, Nancy F.
223. Ice cake pushed into building. [flooded buildings surrounded by ice]
224. In our front yard. Fort Yukon [large pieces of ice piled up, house in background]
225. Mr. Horton Sargent Curlee and Cheateo [?] takeu [?] at 2 a.m. on the morning of the breakup. [3 men standing on dirt next to piled ice]
226. Ice crowding up over the bank of the river [ice next to pole, against buildings in background]
227. Steamboat Fort Yukon
228. Calico Bluff Yukon River GD [man standing (on dock?) in front of high bluff]
229. one of Calico Bluffs below Eagle Yukon River Alaska [same as #228]
230. break up of ice on Tacotna River Alaska GD [2 copies if choppy river ice little water visible; rough sled (dogsled?) in foreground]
231. Break up Tacotna River Alaska [post card of fast-moving water with ice]
232. [Fort Yukon Hotel: large 2-story log building]
233. 1925 On Tacotna River going down stream GD [man standing on ice]
234. Chief Christian frequently visited Fort Yukon [post card of man standing of doorway of log building]
235. [3 dead caribou lying in snow amongst black spruce, rifle leaning on one]
- 235a. [caribou herd running through snow and black spruce]
236. Taking out wood at Tozie Island. Yukon R. 1920 [post card of dog team harnessed to sled filled with logs, 3 people in shot]
237. Mill at Kennicott Alaska [post card with large mill & lots of smaller buildings]
238. Crossing mouth of Tacotna River at McGrath on Kuskokwim R. [Kuskokwim River; large dog team hauling sleds full of logs; 3 men in shot, houses on bank in background]
239. on the trail Jumbo in lead 1916 GD [3 dogs hitched to dogsled, scenic view of river and mountains in background]
240. George Davies All my worldly goods are on the sleigh Jumbo in lead Jan 1916 [post card of same image as #239]
241. [2 copies of post card showing man (George Davies?) standing left of center, looking out at scenic view of mountains through black spruce]

242. View No. II of the Series. 1. Schoolhouse 2. Our cache 3. Church 4. Mission 5. Doctor O'Hara's cabin 6. Hospital 7. Post Office (from rear) 8. Main Street [can see signs on buildings: Horton & Moore Outfitters Trappers Supplies, and Horton & Moore Dealers in Merchandise & Raw Furs]
243. Carribou Coal Creek Alaska GD 1920 [caribou, same image as #235]
244. George's Cabin on Tozie Island, '25 [post card of flat-topped log cabin in snow]
245. McGrath 1925 [flooded log cabin beside overflowing river]
246. George's Cabin at McGrath, '25 Alaska GD [lighter copy of #245]
247. Government Cottage for teachers. Ft. Yukon, Alaska [2 copies of small photo of woman or girl (Sophie?) standing in front of house]
248. Sophie & George Davies on left 1933 [group of people by corner of log building; printed paper with their names on it tucked behind photo: paper calling card?]
249. [4 adults, one child, 2 dogs in front of log building with open door;]
250. Fort Yukon [very blurry image of large group of people posed in front of a log house; printed Christmas-themed paper (calling card) tucked behind photo: George and Sophia Davies]
251. G.D. [image of cross with memorial plaque:] "In memory of the people of the Hudson's Bay company who died at or near Fort Yukon between the years 1840 and 1870 many of them being pioneers and discovers [sic] and explorers of various portions of the Yukon and Alaska. Erected by The Hudson's Bay Company 1923" [same as #5]
252. [Hudson Bay graveyard; includes back of memorial in #251]
253. Hudson Bay grave yard Fort Yukon Alaska GD [2 copies]
254. Potatoe patch Fort Yukon Alaska 1929 GD [2 boats, man, & river in background]
255. Potato Patch & winter wood Fort Yukon
256. Calico Bluff Yukon River Alaska GD
257. Calico Bluff. Yukon River below Eagle Alaska GD
258. Calico Bluff Yukon River Alaska [lighter copy of #256, with smudge]
259. ice running Kuskokwim River Alaska GD [river full of ice, buildings far side]
260. Lucy Moses, Circle Alaska GD [young woman holding baby]
261. George's home [flat-topped log cabin with lots of snow on & around it]
262. Fort Yukon [child in parka with fur ruff, large gloves tied so they can't be lost]
- 262a. Kuskokwim River Alaska GD [post card of mostly smooth water, buildings on far bank]
263. [cropped black & white photo of woman, with colorized necklace & lips; negative also shows woman on her left who is cut off in photograph]
264. [post card of distant sternwheeler on river with high bluffs behind it]

265. Wood chopper Bluff Yukon River Alaska  
 266a. [same dog as 266 b & c, sleeping in snow]  
 266b. George's lead dog Jumbo GD [standing]  
 266c. Jumbo 14 years old Lead dog GD [post card of same dog, sitting]  
 267. Fort Yukon [2 little girls in dresses with dog, in front of fence around cabin]  
 268. [post card of 2 young ladies posed on porch]  
 269. Fort Yukon Alaska 1928 GD [view across partly-iced river to snowy mountains]  
 270. [view across water to distant glacier, mountains on both sides]  
 271. on Tacotna River Alaska GD [3 people in canoe]  
 272. [2 girls posed on snowy ground, one has mittens held by cords]  
 273. Lucy Moses Baby Circle Alaska GD [toddler in fur hat posed on kitchen chair]  
 274. Native Family on Yukon Alaska GD [post card of woman, baby, & small child]  
 275. [woman (Sophie?) in light dress and dark hat with dog, in front of fence]  
 276. the ice going out McGrath Alaska  
 277. White Horse Rapids Yukon GD  
 278. White Horse Rapids GD  
 279. 1932 Midnight Sun Fort Yukon Alaska GD [sun on horizon, reflection from lens below it in image]  
 280. some of our chickens, quite a family scene Fort Yukon 1931 [group of chickens next to rain barrel, dog lying down on right, 2 shoes in foreground]

## INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES

Negatives stored in freezer in Vault

### 1 Box

**27 negatives** that have prints in collection (most 4 x 6½)

#16, 45-46, 50, 52, 71-73, 93, 108-111, 129, 134, 142, 166, 184-185, 192, 198-200, 217, 247, 263

**51 negatives** that do not have prints in the collection (most 4 x 6½). These negatives have not been scanned.